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REMARKS

The April 1, 2008, Office action rejected claims 1-17. To expedite prosecution of this case, this Amendment and Response amends claims 1-17; all without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims in co-pending applications. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally filed specification, claims and figures; no new matter has been introduced. In view of the amendments and remarks presented in this paper, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

In the April 1, 2008, Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 10-11 and 16-17 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Vu (DE 10136925). For the following reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 16 to emphasize that, in the claimed fuel system, each of the *plurality of unit pumps is integrated with the common accumulator housing by mounting within an opening or cross bore provided therein so as to pass through the common accumulator housing so as to permit communication between the pump chamber and, respectively, the first accumulator volume and the second accumulator volume internally within the accumulator housing.*

These amendments are intended to emphasize that Applicants' claimed invention is drawn to a fuel system that includes an accumulator assembly having first and second accumulator volumes within a common accumulator housing, wherein each of the unit pumps is integrated with the common accumulator housing by mounting within an opening or a cross bore provided therein so as to pass through that common accumulator housing. Communication is thereby permitted between the pump chamber and each of the unit pumps and, respectively, the first and second accumulator volumes internally within the common accumulator housing.

Contrariwise, in the fuel system of Vu, a plurality of cam-driven pumping plungers are located within a unitary pump casing (3) in a so-called "in-line" pump arrangement. The output of the in-line pump is fed directly to a high-pressure common rail in a conventional manner. Furthermore, Vu fails to disclose or suggest the concept of mounting a plurality of

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unit pumps into respective openings or cross bores provided in a common accumulator housing that defines first and second accumulator volumes internally within the common accumulator housing. Thus, the present independent claims 1 and 16, as amended, define an invention that is not anticipated by Vu or any other prior art reference. In other words, for at least for the reasons cited above, claims 1 and 16 as amended, are allowable. Still further, claims 4-7, 10-11 and 17 variously depend from amended claims 1 and 16. Therefore, since claims 1 and 16 are allowable for the reasons set forth above, dependent claims 4-7, 10-11 and 17 are also allowable. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, so their rejections are moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 4-7, 10-11 and 16-17 are requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

In the April 1, 2008, Office action, the Examiner also rejected claims 8-9 and 12-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida (US Patent no. 5,622,152) in view of Vu. For the following reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

As discussed above, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to emphasize that, in the claimed fuel system, each of the *plurality of unit pumps is integrated with the common accumulator housing by mounting within an opening or cross bore provided therein so as to pass through the common accumulator housing so as to permit communication between the pump chamber and, respectively, the first accumulator volume and the second accumulator volume internally within the accumulator housing.*

As is also discussed more fully above, neither Vu nor Ishida nor any other prior art reference teaches, suggests, or discloses a fuel system wherein each of the *plurality of unit pumps is integrated with a common accumulator housing by mounting within an opening or cross bore provided therein so as to pass through the common accumulator housing, so as to permit communication between the pump chamber and, respectively, the first accumulator volume and the second accumulator volume internally within the accumulator housing.* Thus, the present independent claim 1, as amended, defines an invention that cannot be obviated by any combination of Vu, Ishida, or any other prior art reference, alone or in combination. In other words, for at least for the reasons cited above, claim 1 as amended, is allowable. Still further, claims 8-9 and 12-15 depend from amended

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claim 1. Therefore, since claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above, dependent claims 8-9 and 12-15 are also allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8-9 and 12-15 are requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-17. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Please charge any necessary fees, including any extension of time, or any other fee deficiencies to Delphi Technologies, Inc., Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

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